

Milford Wind Corridor Project

The following discussion generally describes the Milford Wind Corridor Project as proposed by the applicant. Engineering and environmental review of the project are ongoing and minor changes to the nature and location of facilities in this description may occur as the project details are finalized.

Milford Wind Corridor, LLC (MWC) proposes to develop a Wind Energy Facility with a nominal generating capacity of 300 megawatts (MW) near Milford, Utah. Electrical power from the proposed Wind Energy Facility would interconnect to the existing Intermountain Power Plant (IPP) substation near Delta, Utah, by means of a new, approximately 90-mile-long, 345-kV transmission line crossing predominantly public lands (see accompanying figure).

Wind Energy Facility

The principal components of the Wind Energy Facility include:

- Up to 175 wind turbine generators
- A 34.5-kV underground power collection system linking each turbine to a transmission line substation
- A connector road system
- An operations and maintenance facility.

Depending on the type of wind turbines selected, 120 to 175 turbines would be installed at the Wind Energy Facility, each with a generating capacity of 1.5 to 2.5 MW. The wind turbines would be arranged in up to ten parallel arrays (aka turbine strings) running west-northwest to east-southeast and approximately 1 mile apart. Spacing of the wind turbines along the arrays would be determined by the type of wind turbines selected. Wind turbine towers would be up to 80 meters (263 feet) high, and wind turbine rotors would be up to 104 meters (341 feet) in diameter. The wind turbines would be mounted on concrete foundations and would each occupy a permanent area approximately 20 feet by 30 feet.

Turbine connector roads would be constructed along each turbine array to provide access to each turbine site. Underground power lines (collector lines) would be installed along the turbine connector roads to collect power generated by the individual wind turbines and route it to an electrical substation located within the Wind Energy Facility. Each wind turbine would generate power at around 650 volts. A transformer adjacent to or inside each tower (depending on the turbine type selected) would transform the power to 34.5 kV for transmission to the underground collector lines. The voltage would be further increased for delivery into the project transmission line at the facility substation.

Transmission Line

The principal components of the Transmission Line include:

- An electrical substation (transforming 34.5-kV to 345-kV interconnection voltage)

- Approximately 90 miles of new 345-kV transmission line for interconnection with the IPP substation near Delta, Utah
- An interconnection facility (i.e., switching station) at the IPP substation for connection between the project transmission line and the IPP substation.

At the facility's electrical substation, the voltage of the power being delivered by the Wind Energy Facility power collection system at 34.5 kV would be stepped up to 345 kV for delivery into the project transmission line. Delivery of the power to the IPP substation would require a new, approximately 90-mile-long, 345-kV transmission line crossing primarily BLM-managed lands.

The proposed transmission line route would follow one of two alternative routes. The first route (applicant's proposed route) would travel west from the Wind Energy Facility to a point west of Arizona State Route 257, which it would follow generally north-northeast, diverging east, north, and then west around Delta, Utah, to its interconnection at the IPP substation. The second alternative transmission line route would generally follow a route that is parallel to the existing IPP transmission line. Similar to the applicant's proposed route, the alternative transmission line would terminate at the IPP substation near Delta.

Wooden H-frame or steel-lattice transmission line towers spaced at approximately one-quarter-mile intervals within a permanent transmission line right-of-way would support the transmission line cables. The transmission line towers would be up to approximately 164 feet high and would each occupy a permanent area approximately 20 feet by 30 feet. The Wind Energy Facility substation would occupy an area site of approximately 10-acres or less.

Construction of the Milford Wind Corridor Project is scheduled to begin in June 2008.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the potential effects on the environment of construction and operation of the proposed Milford Wind Corridor Project. The analysis will include the area of the proposed Wind Energy Facility, the applicant's proposed transmission line route, and the alternative transmission line route that would parallel the existing IPP transmission line corridor located west of the proposed transmission line route.